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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/821,526	03/29/2001	James Patrick Quaile	RD-28,219	6075
6147	7590	07/13/2004	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			NGUYEN, ANH T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/821,526

Applicant(s)

QUAILE, JAMES PATRICK

Examiner

Anh T Nguyen

Art Unit

2174

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 14 May 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]**

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires \_\_\_\_\_ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) rejected: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
10. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Continuation of 5. Applicants' arguments in the Amendment dated 5/14/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argued the following:

The applied references do NOT teach, suggest, or disclose (individually or in combination) the independent claims 1, 12, 17, and 20. Specifically, the combined prior art references of Tom and Golibersuch fails to teach or suggest combining the outputs from processing nodes to reach a decision in the presence of unknown information, but instead filters out the unknown information prior to combining the outputs.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

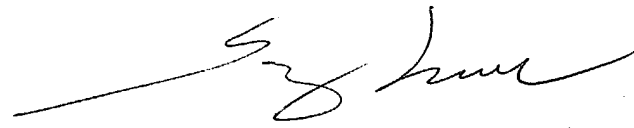
The Examiner reiterates that the language of the limitation cited in the claims in question is given the broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the specification. The Office Action clearly indicates that Tom does not explicitly disclose the system and method wherein some of said evidential values comprise unknown information, the Office Action clearly refers to the teachings of Golibersuch wherein some of said evidential values comprise unknown information (page 56, column 1). Furthermore, The Examiner submits that Golibersuch does teach combining outputs from said processing nodes in the presence of unknown information.

page 56, column 1,

b) The evidence values and the interpretations of the combined evidence were derived. This derivation was aided by the learning algorithm implemented in a modified version of the spreadsheet program.

c) The same spreadsheet program was used to "compute" an opinion (i.e. outputs) for each of the expert supplied examples (i.e. inputs).

As the unknown information is identified, one or more steps (b) and/or (c) in the process is iterated from the processing nodes to reach a decision even in the presence of unknown information. The unknown information is not filtered out prior to combining the outputs but rather identified during the process of combining the outputs configured to emulate expert data. Thus, the limitation is still well read on by the Golibersuch reference.

  
SY D. LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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